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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# 5B

In re application of

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Akinori MINAMI, et al.

JUN 13 2002

Appln. No.: 10/003,415

TC 170

Group Art Unit: Not yet designated

Confirmation No.: Not yet designated

Examiner: Not yet designated

Filed: December 06, 2001

February 11, 2002

For: POWDERS-AFFIXED NONWOVEN FABRIC, PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING SAME, AND SHEET MATERIAL CONTAINING SAME

TC 170  
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MAY 12 2002  
EXAMINER'S ROOM

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**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification is changed as follows:

**Page 5, second full paragraph:**

In accordance with the present invention, there is also provided a process for manufacturing a sheet material comprising the steps of:  
ejecting aggregates of fine short fibers having a fiber diameter of 4  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and a fiber length of 3 mm or less, or a group of the aggregates, and/or mechanically dividable fibers capable of generating fine short fibers having a fiber diameter of 4  $\mu\text{m}$  or less and a fiber length of 3 mm or less, or aggregates of the mechanically dividable fibers, together with powder materials, from a nozzle into a gas by an action of a compressed gas, to thereby divide the aggregates of the fine

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